

agher Education

, New Mexico

September 2002

Enhancing Quality of Life Through Higher Education Partnerships"

Values

The New Mexico Commission on Higher Education is committed to the following values, the parameters within which all Commission activities will be conducted:

- **!** *Integrity* in all we do and say.
- **Leadership** to focus on key higher education issues.
- ❖ *Quality* and *Excellence* in the work of the Commission.
- * Respect for ourselves and our partners.
- Communication which are open, honest, and clear.
- * Responsiveness to student and public needs.

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Bruce D. Hamlett, Executive Director Commission on Higher Education

State of New Mexico Commission on Higher Education

Mission

The New Mexico Commission on Higher Education's mission is to promote and coordinate high quality postsecondary education partnerships that are responsive to changing needs and serve all New Mexicans.

Vision

The New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, through partnerships, will be a catalyst for providing accessible, world class higher education that fosters success and enhances the quality of life for all New Mexicans.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Internal and External Assessments	3
Evaluation Plan and Report	5
Values	6
Mission	6
Vision	6
	6
Ten Year Goals, 1999 - 2009	6
Three Year Goals, 2000 - 2003	7
Objectives and Performance Measures	7
State and Federal Statutory Mandates	13

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education Strategic Plan, 1999 - 2009

Executive Summary

The New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, in partnership with communities, institutions, business, and other public agencies, carries out its responsibilities to effectively and efficiently support postsecondary educational excellence. The agency Strategic Plan has been modified to incorporate the requirements of the Accountability in Government Act and for the purpose of reporting on the agency's performance. The plan also describe the key strategies and performance measures that we have chosen to meet the public's high expectations and fulfill our obligation to be a high-performance organization. The strategies were built from the Commission's mission "to promote and coordinate high quality postsecondary education partnerships that are responsive to changing needs and serve all New Mexicans" and the performance measures were developed to assess progress in meeting our mission.

Internal and External Assessments

During a recent external assessment of the Commission's effectiveness, the consultant provided 1) **foresight** into issues that were likely to affect the Commission's future environment, 2) a **situation inventory** of the challenges facing the Commission, and 3) an **environmental scan** of New Mexico higher education.

Based upon interviews of a number of individuals from across the state, the evaluator provided some foresight into the issues that were likely to affect the Commission's future environment. The issues included:

- a high degree of *consensus regarding the major challenges* facing both the State of New Mexico and higher education in New Mexico.
- consensus on the major barriers that the state must overcome to tackle these challenges although there were obvious differences in how these problems should be solved.
- a concern that New Mexico's economic future is unlikely to change unless the state's education, business, and political leaders coalesce around a statewide strategy to focus energies and resources on a limited number of core problems.
- that all identified *education* as one of these core problems as the starting point from which the solution to other problems would flow.
- a broad consensus that *higher education is central* to the state's strategy to improve the quality of the workforce, strengthen economic development, narrow the disparities among regions and populations and access and opportunity, and enhance the quality of life throughout the state.
- general agreement that statewide public/private coalitions, alliances, and partnerships, *not new bureaucratic structures*, are the best means to lead change in New Mexico.

The evaluator's report provided a situation inventory of the challenges specifically facing the Commission on Higher Education:

Significant changes in membership have made it difficult for the Commission to project a consistent

set of expectations to the institutions, maintain continuity in key policy processes, achieve a common understanding among all members about the Commission's basic authority and mission, and provide consistent direction for the staff.

- The Commission has significant statutory responsibilities yet the Commission appears to be viewed
 more as "another interested party" rather than a state agency with a specific role in the budget and
 legislative process.
- The Commission gets good marks for specific aspects of its performance yet concerns were expressed about the capacity of the Commission to sustain this performance with limited staff resources.
- The Commission must "pull in and focus" in order to have an impact.
- While the staff gets marks for responsiveness, the competing demands of requests from the Governor, State Legislature, and individual Commissioners and various constituencies are fragmenting the workload and undermining the capacity of the Commission to establish priorities.
- The Commission is not viewed as providing statewide leadership for the future of higher education in New Mexico.
- The Commission's work in developing policy, vision, and mission statements and the Long Range Plan do not add up to a compelling public agenda.
- The Commission faces a *challenge to redesign and integrate its core function* in light of new expectations for policy leadership. A consistent theme from the interviews was that the Commission should focus on the quality and integrity of its core, historic functions of ensuring "adequate and equitable" financing, data and information systems, and related policy analysis.
- The policy directions of the Commission on several critical issues are perceived as having been inconsistent and less than clear. Many Commission projects and initiatives appear as separate, isolated tasks.

And finally, the assessment report included an **environmental scan of the serious weaknesses** concerning the ability of New Mexico to compete in the global economy:

- Low economic standing as reflected in ranking of 48th among the 50 states in per capita personal income;
- Low education attainment of New Mexicans;
- An under-prepared workforce and the need to recruit out-of-state for professional expertise in areas important to the New Economy;
- Serious challenges facing K-12 public education;
- Severe disparities in education and income between urban and rural areas and among the state's major ethnic groups;
- A large state geographically with a small population that is widely dispersed in relatively small and often isolated communities;
- Concentration of the population and economic activity along the Rio Grande River Valley, yet a concern that the future will require economic renewal of all - not just some - of New Mexico;
- Heavy reliance on a federal presence and a large amount of public land;
- The need for tax reform to encourage economic development;
- The lack of a statewide telecommunications and transportation infrastructure;
- A culture reflecting a profound distrust in government and a need for fundamental changes in the state's political system;

- Major challenges in developing statewide leadership in a state where leadership is highly local and regional, and statewide businesses and civic organizations are underdeveloped;
- A comparatively large number of widely dispersed institutions of higher education resulting in inefficiency and dispersion of limited resources;
- A sense that the system stresses access and quantity, not quality, performance, and distinctiveness;
- The continued expansion of the fixed assets of the higher education system resulting in even greater dispersion of limited resources; and
- A perceived lack of connection between higher education and the state's major challenges.

Evaluation Plan and Report

The Commission on Higher Education meets **annually** to review and update the Commission's Strategic Plan. This document is used as a guide by the Commission to establish staff priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. During the annual review, Commissioners and staff work together to update the agency mission, vision, goals, and performance measures. The Commission has also conducted **mid-year mini retreats to assess the progress** in meeting the annual objectives of the Strategic Plan.

Throughout the year, staff meetings are also held to assess staff progress in meeting plan objectives. Further, all Commission and Committee agenda items are required to include a brief summary of how the item relates to the agency Strategic Plan. This process ensures that the work of the Commission is in alignment with the agency goals and objectives.

A process of reporting on the agency's progress in meeting the targets identified in the Strategic Plan, the Accountability in Government Act and other related acts, has also been developed. A written report of the objectives and measures, and the process for data gathering and reporting is prepared by staff and reviewed by the Commission's Finance Committee, typically in conjunction with the agency budget status report. This mechanism is designed to ensure that the measures being tracked are appropriate, that the data gathered is error-free, and to provide the Committee with an opportunity to gauge whether staff activity and workload are aligned with the agency goals and objectives.

In addition to the agency's annual independent financial audit, the Commission often initiates activities that provide opportunities for **external evaluations** of Commission performance. For example, the agency contracted for an outside evaluator to assess the performance of the Commission. Many of the recommendations included in the consultant's report were incorporated into the FY02 agency performance measures. In addition, the Commission staff conducts periodic roundtable discussions and regular meetings with institutional presidents to ensure that the Commission's Strategic Goals are consistent with statewide concerns and needs. These efforts will be continued as they provide valuable opportunities for agency performance assessment.

Questions regarding the agency Strategic Plan, performance goals and measures, should be directed to the Commission's Executive Director, Bruce Hamlett, at (505) 827-7383.

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Leadership to focus on key higher education issues.

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Motto

Enhancing Quality of Life Through Higher Education Partnerships.

Ten Year Goals, 1999 - 2009

- 1. Communicate and support the vision for a coordinated system of higher education
- 2. Full implementation of the Commission's accountability policy
- 3. Assess the funding formula, revise as appropriate, and link funding to goals and performance
- 4. Maintain affordability for all New Mexicans
- 5. Improve student movement through the educational pipeline
- 6. Assure an adequate supply of qualified, certified K-12 teachers
- 7. Identify and implement new models for delivering higher education services in communities throughout New Mexico
- 8. Strengthen statewide and campus-based infrastructure plans, policies, and practices
- 9. Strengthen and focus Commission resources on core priorities

Three Year Goals, 2002 - 2005

In pursuit of the vision and consistent with the mission, the Commission will achieve the following goals.

- 1. The Commission will effectively address statutorily mandated responsibilities.
- 2. The Commission will effectively address all federal program requirements and mandates.
- 3. The Commission will effectively address non-statutory activities that are necessary for agency success.
- 4. Develop and implement the public agenda for higher education through partnerships with institutions, business, and other constituents.

Objectives and Performance Measures

Only the current performance measures approved by the Legislature and the Governor in the 2002 General Appropriations Act are included in the FY03 Measures column. However, all Commission-approved measures are provided here to illustrate the alignment of agency performance measures with the goals and objectives established by the Commission.

Objectives	Previously Approved Measures	FY 03 Measures
1. Clearly define and articulate in concert with the institutions, the public agenda for higher education, linked with a continuing program of statewide planning.	1. What proportion of the Commission's regular meeting agendas was devoted to discussion and actions which focused on the public agenda?	1. Percent of Commission and committee meeting agendas that were devoted to discussion and actions which focused on the public agenda.
2. Review and strengthen the higher education funding mechanism to assure adequate and equitable funding for the institutions. Further, in collaboration with our partners assess the funding mechanism's ability to support the higher education public agenda and make recommendations where appropriate.	 Of the total approved funding, what is the percent of operating funding appropriated to the institutions outside Commission's recommendations for the same fiscal year? What is the number of modifications made to the funding formula that are consistent with the public agenda? What percent of the Commission's funding recommendations for institutional operations was ultimately adopted? What percent of the Commission's funding recommendations is explicitly targeted for incentives aimed at prompting a stronger connection between higher education and the public agenda? 	 Percent of the Commission's funding recommendations explicitly targeted for incentives aimed at prompting a stronger connection between higher education and the public agenda. Percent of identified formula funding inequities was addressed by the Finance Committee of the Commission.

Objectives	Previously Approved Measures	FY 03 Measures
3. In collaboration with our partners, implement an on-going system of effective higher education accountability, linked to the performance budgeting requirements of the Accountability in Government Act.		
4. Effective use of federal grant resources to maximize the positive impact of the GEAR-UP, Teacher Quality and Eisenhower Professional Development Programs on educational access & success in New Mexico.		

Objectives	Previously Approved Measures	FY 03 Measures	
5. Improve the movement of students through the K-16 educational pipeline, by (1) stronger program articulation between schools, colleges, and universities, (2) better college and university retention and graduation rates, (3) improve college participation rates by students from the lowest income quartile, and (4) effective consumer information to students, parents and prospective students.	Financial Aid 1. What percent of the Commission's funding recommendations for needbased financial aid was ultimately adopted? 2. Of total state financial aid, what is the proportion and number of needbased awards? Merit awards? Work study? Loans? 3. By institutional sector, what is the proportion of unmet need to total need? 4. What is the 8 th semester enrollment persistence rate of students receiving the Lottery Success Scholarship? Consumer 5. What is the number of incoming calls on the toll-free student help line? What is the percent of calls received from rural counties? 6. What is the number of cities/towns for which outreach events/services have been provided? 7. What is the number of persons obtaining information at the Commission's outreach events? 8. For proprietary institutions, what is the proportion of site visits to licensed institutions?	Financial Aid 1. Number of lottery success recipients enrolled in or graduated from college after the ninth semester. 2. Percent of students meeting eligibility criteria for state loan programs who continue to be enrolled by the sixth semester. 3. Percent of students meeting eligibility criteria for work-study programs who continue to be enrolled by the sixth semester. 4. Percent of students meeting eligibility criteria for merit-based programs who continue to be enrolled by the sixth semester. 5. Percent of students meeting	

Objectives		Previously Approved Measures	FY 03 Measures	
6. Maximize the benefits from the	1.	Of the total approved capital funding,	1.	Percent of properly completed
historical public investment in		what is the percentage of capital		capital infrastructure draws released
existing higher education		funding appropriated to the institutions		to the state Board of Finance within
facilities, as well as the benefits		outside the Commission's		thirty days of receipt from the
from current and future		recommendations for the same fiscal		institutions.
investments in technology in		year?		
enhancing access and promoting	2.	What percent of the Commission's		
quality.		capital funding recommendations was		
		ultimately adopted?		
	3.	What proportion of the Commission's		
		capital funding recommendations		
		focuses on providing information		
		technology and instructional		
		equipment without additional		
		investments in fixed assets (bricks and		
		mortar)?		
	4.	What is the percentage of capital		
		infrastructure draws released to the		
		Board of Finance within 30 days of		
		Commission receipt?		
	5.	5. What is the proportion of current		
		institutional expenditures to the		
		balance approved by the Commission		
		for state infrastructure projects?		

Objectives	Previously Approved Measures	FY 03 Measures
7. With respect to Commission operations, implement an ongoing system of effective accountability linked to performance budgeting requirements of the Accountability in Government Act.	Financial Management/Accounting 6. What is the percentage variation from approved operating budget to yearend adjusted budget? 7. What is the percentage of payment vouchers approved by DFA/FCD when first submitted? 8. What is the number of purchase documents processed? 9. What is the number of payment vouchers processed? 10. What is the number of contracts/grant agreements executed? 11. What is the number of audit exceptions? 12. What is the percent of audit exceptions resolved? 13. What is the average number of training hours provided on an FTE basis? Human Resources 14. What is the percentage of employee files containing performance appraisals that was completed and submitted within SPO guidelines? 15. What is the average number of sick leave hours taken per employee?	

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education

State and Federal Statutory Mandates Strategic Plan 1999-2009

Strategic Goal #1: The Commission will effectively implement all statutorily mandated responsibilities.

Strategic Goal #2: The Commission will effectively implement all federal program requirements and mandates.

Statutory Provisions

6-3-7. Annual operating budgets; supervision and control; submission of proposed budgets; approval; review by governor.

Each state agency shall annually on or before May 1 submit to the state budget division a budget for the ensuing fiscal year, in such form as may be prescribed by the division and containing such information concerning the anticipated receipts, expenditures and balances on hand as may be prescribed by law or by the state budget division.

6-3-19. Agencies to complete budget forms.

Each state agency shall fill out the budget forms provided for in Section 6-3-18 NMSA 1978 in the manner prescribed by the state budget division not later than September 1 in each year.

6-3-24. Budget adjustments; authorizations permitted.

A state agency may be specifically authorized by law to request a budget adjustment. The amount of budget adjustment authorized may be limited by law. All requests for budget adjustments shall be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 6-3-25 NMSA 1978.

6-3A-4. Program identification.

Prior to May 1 of each year, each agency that is required to submit a performance-based program budget request in the subsequent fiscal year shall identify and submit to the division and committee a list of agency programs.

6-3A-5. Performance measures.

Prior to July 1 of each year, each agency required to submit a performance-based budget request in the subsequent fiscal year shall submit to the division the proposed performance measures for each approved program. The agency shall identify the outputs produced by each program, the outcomes resulting from each program and baseline data associated with each performance measure.

6-3A-6. Schedule for submission of performance-based program budget requests.

State agencies shall submit performance-based program budget requests pursuant to a schedule to be developed by the division, in consultation with the committee. No later than September 1, 1999 and each September 1 thereafter, the agencies shall submit performance-based program budget requests for the subsequent fiscal year to the division and to the committee based on that schedule.

The agency shall develop, in consultation with the state budget division, a plan for monitoring and reviewing the agency's programs to ensure that performance data are maintained and supported by agency records.

6-24-23. Lottery tuition fund created; purpose.

The "lottery tuition fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund shall be administered by the commission on higher education. After appropriation, if any, by the legislature for scholarships pursuant to Subsection C of Section 21-1-2 NMSA 1978, the remaining money in the lottery tuition fund is appropriated to the commission on higher education for distribution to New Mexico's public post-secondary educational institutions to provide tuition assistance for New Mexico resident undergraduates as provided by law.

10-9-15. Duties of state officers and employers.

All officers and employers of the state shall comply with the Personnel Act.

11-10-1. Compact for Western Regional Cooperation in Higher Education.

This compact shall become operative and binding immediately as to those states and territories adopting it whenever five or more of the states or territories of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Alaska and Hawaii have duly adopted it prior to July 1, 1953.

15-1C-4. Serve on the IT Commission.

Serve as a member of the Information Technology Commission to coordinate and assess information systems' services and resources, to develop and promote strategic planning for the state's information technology resources, to review and evaluate funding requests, and to provide oversight for the Information Technology Management Office.

15-1C-8. Information Technology Management; Agency plans; certification.

Prior to making information technology purchases, an executive agency shall certify to the office that its proposed information technology purchases are consistent with its agency plan, the information architecture adopted by the IT Commission and the state strategic plan.

13-1-170. Uniform contract clauses.

A state agency, local public body or central purchasing office with the power to issue regulations may require by regulation that contracts include uniform clauses providing for termination of contracts, adjustments in prices, adjustments in time of performance or other contract provisions as appropriate.

21-1-2. Three percent scholarships.

The board of regents of each institution may establish and grant gratis scholarships to students who are residents of New Mexico in an amount not to exceed the matriculation fee or tuition and fees, or both. Except as provided in Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978, the number of scholarships established and granted shall not exceed three percent of the preceding fall semester enrollment in each institution and shall not be established and granted for summer sessions. At least thirty-three and one-third percent of the gratis scholarships established and granted by each board of regents each year shall be granted on the basis of financial need.

21-1-2. Athletic scholarships.

The board of regents of each institution set out in this subsection may establish and grant, in addition to those scholarships provided for in Subsection C of this section, athletic scholarships for tuition and fees. In no event shall the board of regents of any institution be allowed to award scholarships for tuition and fees for more than the number of athletic scholarships set out in this subsection and in no event shall more than seventy-five percent of the scholarships granted be for out-of-state residents...

21-1-4. Tuition charges; definitions.

The commission on higher education shall define resident and nonresident students for the purpose of administering tuition charges in accordance with the constitution and statutes of the state and after consultation with the appropriate officials of the institutions concerned. Each institution shall use the uniform definitions so established in assessing and collecting tuition charges from students.

21-1-4.3, 21-13-10, 21-16-10.1. Tuition scholarships authorized.

The commission on higher education shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the tuition (Lottery Success) scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed to the board of regents of each institution to

enable a uniform availability of the resident student tuition scholarships.

21-1-4.4. Commission on higher education; determination of tuition scholarships; use of lottery tuition fund.

Prior to June 1 of each year, the commission on higher education shall determine the amount of money available for tuition scholarships at state public post-secondary educational institutions.

21-1-6. Waiving of nonresident differential in tuition rates on a reciprocal basis with other states.

The commission on higher education shall identify those circumstances where the waiving of the nonresident differential in tuition rates, on a reciprocal basis with other states, including the states of the foreign country contiguous to New Mexico, would enhance educational opportunities for New Mexico residents. The commission shall establish regulations for the administration of the waivers and for the reporting of the cases in which the waivers are given.

21-1-7.2. Reporting; commission on higher education.

Each board of regents shall file annually a report on the post-tenure review process instituted at the institution.

21-1-21. Capital expenditures.

No expenditure shall be made by any state educational institution confirmed by Article 12, Section 11 of the state constitution for the purchase of real property or the construction of buildings or other major structures or for major remodeling projects without prior approval of the proposed purchase or construction or remodeling by the board of educational finance and the state board of finance.

21-1-24. Graduate programs.

None of the funds appropriated in the general appropriations act to the state educational institutions confirmed by Article 12, Section 11 of the state constitution may be used for the support of any program or programs of graduate study beyond the level of the bachelor's degree other than programs that were maintained by each institution previous to September 1, 1954, except by explicit approval of each program by the board of educational finance and the state board of finance prior to such use of the funds.

21-1-26. Commission on higher education created; powers.

- A. There is created a "commission on higher education" whose function is to deal with the problems of finance of those educational institutions designated in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico. The commission shall:
- (1) be concerned with the adequate financing of these institutions and with the equitable distribution of available funds among them;
- (2) be authorized to receive funding for the in-plant development training program and to administer the funds in accordance with the provisions of Section 21-19-7 NMSA 1978;
- (3) receive, adjust and approve the budgets submitted by these institutions prior to the submission of these budgets to the state budget division of the department of finance and administration;
- (4) develop and maintain programs, on a regular basis, for the orientation and in-service education of members of the boards of regents of the various educational institutions designated in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico; and
- (5) exercise such other powers as may be granted it by law.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the commission on higher education, which is a commission broadly representative of the public and of institutions of higher education, may be designated by the governor to administer funds furnished under acts of congress for those educational institutions enumerated in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico and for any other educational institutions over which the commission has been granted approval authority or supervisory powers or both.
- C. The commission on higher education is also charged with oversight of all private post-secondary educational institutions operating within the state.

21-1-26.1. Additional duties.

In addition to the duties imposed upon the commission on higher education by the Post-Secondary Educational Planning Act [Chapter 21, Article 2 NMSA 1978], the commission shall have the responsibility of performing the same planning and budgeting functions for the Bernalillo

county medical center (UNM Health Sciences Center) as it performs for other post-secondary educational institutions.

21-1-26.2. Post-secondary education; adult correctional facilities.

Upon approval by the corrections and criminal rehabilitation department in consultation with the board of educational finance [commission on higher education], state-supported post-secondary educational institutions shall receive credit on a full-time equivalency basis for students enrolled in their respective programs within adult correctional facilities. Funding recommendations to implement the provisions of this section shall be developed by the board of educational finance [commission on higher education] or the public school finance division of the department of finance and administration as appropriate in the same manner that funding recommendations for similar programs at other institutions are calculated.

21-1-26.3. Verification function.

The commission on higher education shall annually conduct special verifications of the institutions of higher education. The verifications shall include but not be limited to enrollments, fund balances, compliance with legislation, comparison of expenditures to budgets and other areas to be determined by the commission. Reports on the verifications shall be made annually to the department of finance and administration and the legislative finance committee. The commission shall consider the verification findings in making its annual recommendations to the executive and legislature for higher education funding.

21-1-26.7. Annual accountability report.

A. The commission on higher education shall submit an annual accountability report to the governor and to the legislature by December 31. Prior to publication, the commission on higher education shall distribute a draft of the accountability report to all public, post-secondary institutions and shall allow comment upon the draft report.

- B. The commission on higher education in consultation with the public post-secondary educational institution shall develop and adopt the content and a format for the report, including the following information:
- (1) student progress and success;
- (2) student access and diversity;
- (3) affordability and cost of educational services; and
- (4) public and community service by the institutions.
- C. The commission on higher education shall make no funding recommendation, capital outlay recommendation, distribution or certification on behalf of any public, post-secondary institution that has not submitted the information required pursuant to this section.

21-1-26.8. Health profession advisory committee; created; duties.

The health profession advisory members shall be appointed by the commission on higher education pursuant to the policies and procedures of the commission.

21-1-26.9. Limitation; commission on higher education; review of proposed campuses.

Effective January 1, 1998, no new public post-secondary educational institution, branch campus or off-campus instructional center shall be created except as specifically created by the legislature. The commission on higher education shall review any proposal for the establishment of a new public post-secondary educational institution or campus and submit its recommendations to the legislature.

21-1-26.10. Commission on higher education; plan for funding significant post-secondary educational infrastructure needs.

A. The commission on higher education, in conjunction with the governing bodies of the post-secondary educational institutions and other state educational institutions confirmed in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico, shall develop and approve a five-year plan for funding with supplemental severance tax bonds the infrastructure renovation and expansion projects designated by the commission as the highest priority of significant needs. The commission shall determine the projects and amounts to be funded, with a timetable for the projects and amounts to be funded each year over the five-year period, subject to review and comment by the educational institutions and subject to the amount of supplemental severance tax bonds issued each year.

B. The commission on higher education shall administer the proceeds from supplemental severance tax bonds appropriated to the commission and distribute the proceeds to the respective governing bodies of the educational institutions with projects that are funded with the proceeds pursuant to the plan approved and adopted by the commission in Subsection A of this section.

21-1-27. Commission on higher education; distribution of available funds.

In its distribution of available funds and its adjustment and approval of budgets, the commission on higher education shall not, in any event or in any manner, substitute for public funds any gift, donation, private endowment, patent income or other gratuity received or enjoyed by an institution in determining the adequate financing of an institution under its charge.

21-1-27.1. Faculty Endowment Fund.

The "faculty endowment fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund shall be administered by the commission on higher education. The fund's purpose is to establish endowments for chairs (50%), professorships (35%) and faculty development programs (15%) at four-year public post-secondary educational institutions, which must match the money they receive from this fund with non-governmental funds in an amount equal or greater than the amount authorized by this section.

21-1-33. System of accounting and reporting; manual.

A. The commission on higher education] shall compile a manual prescribing a uniform classification of accounts and a uniform system for budgeting and reporting which includes the reporting of all funds available

B. Following approval by the legislative finance committee, the manual shall be reproduced by the board of educational finance [commission on higher education] and filed as required by the State Records Act [State Rules Act, Chapter 14, Article 4 NMSA 1978]. Upon such filing the requirements set forth in the manual shall constitute regulations of the board of educational finance [commission on higher education] and have the force of law.

The commission on higher education shall review the manual annually. Sections of the manual may be revised or amended from time to time by the board of educational finance [commission on higher education] and such revisions or amendments shall become effective upon approval by the legislative finance committee, reproduction and filing as provided in this section.

C. All institutions to which this act [21-1-32, 21-1-33 NMSA 1978] applies shall comply with all of the requirements in the manual, submit reports to the commission on higher education as requested and furnish such additional information as the commission on higher education deems necessary.

21-1-34. Educational television equipment replacement fund; disbursement.

The "educational television equipment replacement fund" is created. The board of educational finance [commission on higher education] shall develop criteria and promulgate regulations for the disbursement of money in this fund for the replacement of equipment at educational television stations operated by institutions of higher education.

21-1-37. New Mexico cooperative education program created; administration; duties.

There is created the "New Mexico cooperative education program" which shall be administered by the commission on higher education. The commission shall establish procedures to identify employment opportunities for cooperative education throughout New Mexico in private, governmental and nonprofit sectors and shall work with the public post-secondary institutions to encourage involvement of students in the cooperative education program. The commission shall identify those groups of students and fields of study or employment for which the most severe under representation exists and for which cooperative education shall be encouraged.

21-1B-3. Articulation plan; development; implementation; establishment of transfer module.

A. The commission shall establish and maintain a comprehensive statewide plan to provide for the articulation of educational programs and facilitate the transfer of students between institutions.

B. In establishing a statewide articulation plan, the commission shall define, publish and maintain modules of lower-division courses accepted for transfer at all institutions and meeting requirements for lower-division requirements established for associate and baccalaureate degree-

granting programs. The commission shall ensure that institutions develop transfer modules that include a minimum of sixty-four hours of lower-division college-level credit.

C. Transfer modules shall include a common general education core component of not less than thirty-five semester hours. This general education core shall include a comprehensive array of lower-division college-level courses designed to demonstrate skills in communication, mathematics, science, social and behavioral science, humanities, fine arts or comparable areas of study coordinated for the purpose of providing a foundation for a liberal education for all programs normally leading to a baccalaureate degree.

21-1B-4. Utilization of transfer module; transfer of credits.

The commission shall establish and maintain procedures to identify additional lower-division credit courses in specific disciplines of study such as business, engineering, technology, education, health and arts and sciences that will be transferable among institutions and applicable to requirements for completion of baccalaureate degrees in specific programs of study.

21-1B-5. Oversight of articulation programs; complaint procedures.

- A. The commission shall establish and maintain a process to monitor and improve articulation through frequent and systematic consultation with institutions. Institutions shall monitor the progress of each transfer student and provide appropriate information to the student's originating institution.
- B. The commission shall establish a complaint procedure for transfer students who fail to receive credit for courses contained in a transfer module taken at another institution. The commission may set standards for determining bona fide complaints, including a requirement that students follow institutions' internal procedures for resolving complaints prior to submitting them to the commission. The commission shall investigate all articulation complaints and render decisions as to the appropriateness of the actions of the participants.
- C. Prior to December 31 of each year, the commission shall summarize all articulation complaints filed with the commission and the decisions of the commission with regard to those complaints. For those complaints for which the commission finds merit, the commission shall calculate the number of credits refused at the receiving institution and recommend a corresponding reduction of legislative funding to the next session of the legislature.

21-1B-6. Articulation Reporting.

- A. Prior to December 31 of each year, the commission shall report to the legislative finance committee, the legislative education study committee and the governor regarding the status of articulation programs and the transfer of students between institutions.
- B. The report developed by the commission shall include an analysis of the number of students transferring between campuses, the number of credits being requested and accepted for transfer, institutions denying transfer of credits and reasons for denial, the progress of transfer students at receiving institutions and a summary of student complaints regarding articulation. The report shall include data and other information obtained on both a statewide and individual institution basis.
- C. The report shall identify each institution against which a meritorious complaint has been filed. The report shall summarize the recommendations of the commission with regard to funding reductions at those institutions.
- D. All institutions shall provide articulation information required by the commission for the development of the annual report prior to September 30 of each year.

21-2-3. Post-Secondary Educational Planning Act. State commission created; designated members; designation of supplementary members for specific functions.

For the purposes of the Post-Secondary Educational Planning Act [this article], the commission on higher education, in functioning as the state commission, is charged with a concern for all types of post-secondary education and all types of educational institutions and programs as enumerated in Section 21-2-2 NMSA 1978. Whenever federal statutes and regulations so require, the state commission may request the governor to appoint, for specific functions relating to federally sponsored programs, supplementary members to the state commission, and members shall be appointed by the governor to fulfill those specific functions as requested. When sitting with the state commission, the

supplementary members shall have, for purposes of the specific functions for which they were appointed, all the powers and perquisites of regular members of the state commission.

21-2-4. State commission; appointment of committees and task forces.

The state commission may establish committees or task forces, not necessarily consisting of commission members, and may use existing agencies or organizations to make studies, conduct surveys, submit recommendations or otherwise contribute expertise from the post-secondary educational institutions, programs, interest groups and segments of the society most concerned with a particular aspect of the state commission's work.

21-2-5. Statewide planning.

The state commission shall carry out a continuing program of statewide planning for post-secondary education. Planning activities shall include:

- A. assessment of present and projected needs for the various types of post-secondary education in all parts of the state;
- B. assessment of existing capabilities and facilities for the provision of the various types of post-secondary education and the utilization of these capabilities and facilities;
- C. analysis of the effectiveness and productivity of post-secondary educational programs and an identification of marginal programs and of unnecessary or excessive duplication of programs;
- D. analysis of the most effective means of utilizing all existing institutions and programs to meet the present and projected needs for the various types of post-secondary education;
- E. identification of cases where expansion or improvement of existing institutions and programs, contraction or elimination of existing institutions and programs, and establishment of new institutions and programs are needed in order to meet the present and projected needs for post-secondary education on a statewide basis in an effective and efficient manner;
- F. identification of steps required to coordinate the activities of the various institutions and programs of post-secondary education in order that they will be most effective and efficient in meeting the statewide needs;
- G. development of strategies for infusing occupational education and career education into the educational system at all levels on an equal basis with traditional academic education (workforce development);
- H. development of logical, consistent and equitable organizational and fiscal provisions for the operation of post-secondary education and for the effective utilization of federal, state and local funding available for such education;
- I. the making of specific recommendations to the cognizant governing authorities of post-secondary educational institutions and programs, as to the steps necessary to adjust the operations of the particular institution or program in order that they will best serve a coordinated statewide system of post-secondary education meeting the statewide needs for post-secondary education;
- J. the making of recommendations to appropriate state executive agencies and to the legislature regarding the legislation and the administrative actions necessary to implement a coordinated statewide system of post-secondary education;
- K. the making of recommendations to the executive and to the legislature which provide consistent standards for determining the necessary appropriation from the state general fund to implement the planned system of post-secondary education.
- Such standards shall pertain to, but not necessarily be limited to:
- (1) all income to the institution or to any connected corporation to the institution from any source whatsoever, except that gifts, donations, private endowments or other gratuities received by an institution shall not be used in any manner as a substitute for public funds;
- (2) all balances whether fund balances or cash balances and the operational need for such balances;
- (3) the consistent application of overhead income among institutions;
- (4) full-time equivalent (FTE) student costs by level of instruction and subject area;
- (5) an equitable distribution of funds to support research;

- (6) expenditures and revenues necessary for operation of each auxiliary enterprise;
- (7) the translation of institutional internal accounts to the board of educational finance budget forms;
- (8) funding of intercollegiate athletics; and
- (9) funding of institutional branches and other state vocational facilities; and
- L. tuition equalization grants to students.

21-2-5.1. Funding formula.

- A. The commission on higher education shall develop a funding formula that will provide funding for each institution of higher education to accomplish its mission as determined by a statewide plan.
- B. The commission on higher education may include factors in the funding formula, which when implemented will achieve the following:
- (1) improve the quality of programs central to each institution's mission;
- (2) develop and enhance programs that meet targeted post-secondary educational needs and the related needs of public schools;
- (3) eliminate unnecessary, unproductive or duplicative programs;
- (4) consider faculty salaries and benefits adjustment to a competitive level with similar institutions in similar states when such compensation adjustments are supported by detailed analyses of faculty workloads and educational outcomes assessments and non-teaching staff salaries and benefits at a competitive level with other similar public or private sector employment in the community in which the institution is situated;
- (5) recognize additional costs incurred through increases in enrollment;
- (6) provide for equipment and equipment maintenance and library acquisitions and operations since the development of the prior funding formula;
- (7) fund off-campus courses and other nontraditional course delivery systems at a level sufficient to allow their development;
- (8) provide incentives to institutions to pursue private or alternative funding sources;
- (9) encourage the sharing of expertise, equipment and facilities and development of joint instructional programs, research and public service projects;
- (10) implement uniform articulation agreements and facilitation of transfer of students between institutions;
- (11) encourage energy conservation; and
- (12) require mechanisms to track expenditures to ensure greater accountability.

21-2-6. Statewide planning; participating agencies and persons.

- A. The state commission in carrying out its planning activities for post-secondary education shall consult with and invite the active participation of:
- (1) representatives of post-secondary educational institutions of the several types enumerated in Paragraph (2) of Subsection A of Section 21-2-2 NMSA 1978; (2) the state board of education; 3) the state department of public education; (4) representatives of public and private elementary and secondary schools; (5) the secretary of labor; 6) the tourism department; (7) the apprenticeship council; (8) the economic development department; (9) the state advisory council on vocational education; 10) the secretary of finance and administration or his designee; 11) persons familiar with the education needs of the disadvantaged, of the handicapped and of minority groups; (12) representatives of business, industry, organized labor and agriculture; (13) the general public; and 14) private in-state post-secondary institutions.
- B. Whenever the planning activities carried out under the provisions of Section 21-2-5 NMSA 1978 are concerned with the types of post-secondary education enumerated in Subparagraphs (a) through (e) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of Section 21-2-2 NMSA 1978, the state commission shall directly involve the state board of education and the state department of public education in all planning activities.

21-2-7. Annual report.

The state commission shall submit an annual report to the governor and the legislature prior to November 15 each year. Such report shall describe the planning activities undertaken, present data on the status of all types of post-secondary education and set forth all

recommendations developed under Section 5, Items I, J and K [21-2-5 I, J and K NMSA 1978] of the Post-Secondary Educational Planning Act. Prior to the final adoption of the annual report the state commission shall distribute a draft of the report to all institutions and programs of the types enumerated in Section 2A(2) [21-2-2A(2) NMSA 1978] and to representatives of all other interests enumerated in Section 6 and shall then hold a hearing at which all such institutions, programs and interests may comment upon the draft report.

21-2-8. Designation of state commission as agency required for certain federal programs.

The state commission is designated the agency to administer any programs for the benefit of post-secondary education or post-secondary education students provided by acts of congress in the future and requiring a state-level agency for their administration, except as otherwise provided by law.

21-2-9. Designation of state agency required for certain federal occupational education programs.

The state board of education is designated as the state agency required under the provisions of Section 1055(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (P.L. 92-318, June 23, 1972) and shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties required of that state agency. In exercising such powers and performing such duties, the state board of education shall afford the state commission, on a regular basis, an opportunity to review and comment upon any policies, procedures, programs or allocation of resources prior to their final adoption.

21-2A-5. Special tax levy for college district operation.

If approved by a majority of the electors voting on the issue, the board of county commissioners, at the direction of the board, shall levy the taxes in an amount certified by the **commission on higher education** as necessary to meet the annual budget approved by the commission on higher education, but in no event shall the taxes levied exceed the rate limitation approved by the electors nor shall it exceed any lower maximum rate required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 applied to the rate limitation approved by the electors.

21-2A-6. College district general obligation bonds; interest; form; payment.

To carry out the purposes of the College District Tax Act [21-2A-1 to 21-2A-10 NMSA 1978], the board may issue negotiable coupon general obligation bonds of the college district, if approved by the commission on higher education and then approved at an election by a majority of the qualified electors voting on the issue; provided, however, no bonds shall be issued that create a total bonded indebtedness in the district in excess of three percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property within the college district as shown in the preceding general assessment, which debt limitation is to be in excess of other existing debt limitations.

The proceeds obtained from the issuance of the bonds shall not be diverted or expended for any purposes other than those provided in the College District Tax Act; provided that no building shall be built without prior approval of detailed plans by the commission on higher education; and further provided that the expenses incurred in the preparation and sale of the bonds may be paid out of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds.

21-2A-8. Refunding bonds; general obligation college district bonds.

The board of any college district may, with the approval of the commission on higher education

- B. In coordinating the development and operation of extended learning programs, the commission on higher education shall make awards from the extended learning fund for the purpose of establishing pilot extended learning programs. Pilot programs shall focus on the creation and operation of community-based extended learning centers, the development of regional resources and the expanded use of technology in instruction.
- C. Annually, prior to October 1, the commission on higher education shall report to the legislature and the governor on the status of extended learning programs and make recommendations on the funding level for such projects for the upcoming year.

21-2A-12. Extended learning fund created; distribution of fund.

Money in the fund is appropriated to the commission on higher education for the purpose of making awards to public schools and public post-secondary institutions for the purpose of developing and operating extended learning programs throughout the state. The commission shall establish by regulation a procedure for application and award of money in the fund.

21-13-11. Standards and accrediting of community colleges.

The executive director of the commission on higher education shall annually inspect, or investigate through the requirement of reports prescribed by him, each community college. The inspection or investigation by report shall be conducted upon the facilities and program of each community college to determine the extent of compliance with the rules promulgated by the commission. A report of each inspection or final investigation by report shall be made to the commission. In the case of repeated failure to meet the standards provided for in Subsection A of this section, the commission on higher education may take action discontinuing the approval of any community college so delinquent. Upon a showing that the unsatisfactory conditions have been remedied, the commission may reinstate its approval of a disapproved community college.

21-13-12. Degrees and certificates awarded.

The community college board of a community college may award the appropriate degree upon the completion of a curriculum organized for that purpose and approved by the commission on higher education. An associate degree or certificate may be awarded only to students as recommended by the faculty, the chief academic officer and the president of the community college as having completed satisfactorily the prescribed course of study.

21-13-19. Enrollment defined; payments.

- A. For those students in community colleges taking college-level courses, full-time-equivalent students shall be defined and computed by the commission on higher education in the same manner in which it defines and computes full-time-equivalent students for all other college-level programs within its jurisdiction.
- B. No student shall be included in any calculations made under the provisions of this section if the student is enrolled in a course the cost of which is totally reimbursed from federal, state or private sources. The public school district shall transfer to the community college the tuition and fees for any student who, during the term, is counted in the membership of the public school district and will receive high school credit for coursework at the community college.
- C. The commission on higher education shall not recommend an appropriation greater than three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325) for each full-time-equivalent student for any community college that levies a tax at a rate less than two dollars (\$2.00), unless a lower amount is required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon a rate of at least two dollars (\$2.00) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code [Chapter 7, Articles 35 to 38 NMSA 1978], or any community college that reduces a previously authorized tax levy, except as required by the operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978.
- D. The commission on higher education shall require from the community college such reports as the commission deems necessary for the purpose of determining the number of full-time-equivalent students at the community college eligible to receive support under this section.

 E. A community college board shall establish tuition and fee rates for its respective institutions for full-time, part-time, resident and nonresident

students, as defined by the commission on higher education.

F. A community college board may establish and grant gratis scholarships to students who are residents of New Mexico in an amount not to exceed the matriculation fee or tuition and fees, or both. Except as provided for lottery scholarships, the number of scholarships established and granted shall not exceed three percent of the preceding fall semester enrollment in each institution and shall not be established and granted for summer sessions. The president of each institution shall select and recommend to the community college board of his institution, as recipients of scholarships, students who possess good moral character and satisfactory initiative, scholastic standing and personality. At least thirty-three and one-third percent of the gratis scholarships established and granted by each community college board each year shall be granted on the basis of financial need.

21-13-21. Addition of school districts to existing community college districts.

A. The qualified electors within the territorial limits of a school district, group of school districts within a county or school districts in an adjoining county, not included in the community college district as originally formed, may petition the commission on higher education to be added to the community college district. The commission shall examine the petition and, if it finds that the petition is signed by the requisite number of qualified electors as provided in Sections 21-13-4 and 21-13-5 NMSA 1978, the commission shall cause a survey to be made of the petitioning district to determine the desirability of the proposed extension of the area of the community college district.

- B. In conducting the survey, the commission on higher education shall ascertain the attitude of the community college board and collect other information as prescribed in Section 21-13-5 NMSA 1978. If on the basis of the survey the commission finds that the proposed addition of the petitioning district will promote an improved education service in the area, it shall approve the petition. Thereafter, the commission shall proceed to call an election within the petitioning district and in the established community college district on the question of the area in the community college district. In the election, the procedure prescribed in Sections 21-13-6, 21-13-7 and 21-13-18 NMSA 1978 shall be followed.
- C. If it appears on canvass of the results of the election in the office of the executive director of the commission on higher education that a majority of the votes cast in each of the petitioning areas and within the established community college district was in favor of the addition of the petitioning area, the executive director shall notify the boards of education within each school district and the community college board of the results of the election and shall declare the extension of the boundaries of the community college district to include the petitioning area in which the proposed addition referendum carried by a majority vote. The addition shall take effect on the next succeeding July 1.
- D. The territory within each school district added to any existing community college district shall automatically be subject to any special levy on taxable property approved for the community college district for the maintenance of facilities and services and for support of bond issues.

21-13-23. Dissolution of community college districts.

Community college districts may be dissolved in the following manner:

A. submission of a plan for the dissolution of the community college district to the executive director of the commission on higher education by a petition signed by ten percent of the qualified electors residing within the district. Upon receipt of a proper plan and petition, the executive director shall call a special election for the purpose of referring to the qualified electors residing in the district the question of dissolution. Plans for the dissolution of a community college district shall provide for the payment of all district debts and liabilities and for the equitable distribution of all remaining assets to the school districts within the community college district;

- B. if the executive director of the commission on higher education finds that a majority of the qualified electors voting on the issue at the special election has authorized the dissolution, the community college board shall proceed with the approved plan. Upon completion of the plan, the community college board shall submit a full report to the executive director and a copy of the report to each local school district board within the community college district;
- C. upon receipt of the final report of the community college board, the executive director of the commission on higher education shall examine the report to determine whether any outstanding obligations still exist and whether the terms of the approved plan have been accomplished. If,

upon determination by the executive director, no obligations are yet outstanding and the provisions of the plan have been fulfilled, he shall formally declare the community college district dissolved.

21-13-24.1. Establishing procedures for independence; funding; tuition; appropriation; local support level; outstanding indebtedness.

Any institution established in accordance with Chapter 21, Article 14 or 16 NMSA 1978 that desires to become an independent institution pursuant to the Community College Act [this article] and to receive more than three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325) per full-time-equivalent student is subject to the following:

- A. approval of the institutional request for independent status by the commission on higher education;
- B. tuition rates shall be recommended by the commission on higher education and shall be set by the community college board;
- C. the commission on higher education shall recommend an appropriation for the institution based upon expenditure levels determined by commission formulas in relation to its authorized program and its available funds from non general fund sources, and the recommended appropriation shall be an amount not less than three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325) for each full-time-equivalent student.

21-14-5. Financing of branch community colleges; tuition and fee waivers.

The board of regents of the respective parent institution of the branch community college may establish and grant gratis scholarships to students of the branch community college who are residents of New Mexico in an amount not to exceed the matriculation fee or tuition and fees, or both. At least thirty-three and one-third percent of the gratis scholarships established and granted by the board of regents for a branch community college each year shall be granted on the basis of financial need.

21-14-9. State support; appropriation.

A. The commission on higher education shall recommend an appropriation for each branch community college and junior college based upon the college's financial requirements in relation to its authorized program and its available funds from non-general fund sources; provided, the recommended appropriation shall be an amount not less than three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325) for each full-time-equivalent student student. B. The commission on higher education shall not recommend an appropriation greater than three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325) for each full-time-equivalent student for any branch community college that levies a tax at a rate less than one dollar (\$1.00), unless a lower amount is required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon a rate approved by the electors of at least one dollar (\$1.00) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code [Chapter 7, Articles 35 to 38, NMSA 1978], or any branch community college that reduces a previously authorized tax levy, except as required by the operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978.

21-14A-3. Off-Campus Instruction Act. Establishment authorized; board; determination of need; agreements.

The duties of the off-campus board are to:

- (1) initiate and conduct the survey provided for in Subsection D of this section;
- (2) select one or more parent institutions which shall be one of the state educational institutions as specified in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico or one of the state educational institutions established pursuant to Chapter 21 NMSA 1978;
- (3) request approval of the off-campus instruction program by the commission on higher education;
- (4) enter into written agreements with the board of regents of the selected parent institution, which agreements shall be subject to biennial review of all parties concerned and to the review and commentary of the commission on higher education;
- D. Upon evidence of a demand for an off-campus instruction program, the off-campus board shall cause a survey to be made. The commission on higher education shall develop criteria for the establishment of an off-campus instruction program, and no such program shall be established without the written authorization of the commission.
- E. If need is established, the off-campus board, in accordance with the commission on higher education criteria for initiating an off-campus instruction program, shall consult with the board of regents of the state educational institution selected to be a parent institution, and, if the off-

campus board and the board of regents agree to conduct an off-campus instruction program in the area, they shall transmit a proposal to establish an off-campus instruction program to the commission. The commission shall evaluate the need and shall notify the off-campus board and the board of regents of approval or disapproval of the proposal.

- F. If the proposal is approved, the off-campus board and the board of regents of the parent institution shall enter into a written agreement which shall include provisions for:
- (1) the state educational institution to have full authority and responsibility in relation to all academic matters;
- (2) the state educational institution to honor all credits earned by students as though they were earned on the parent campus;
- (3) the course of study and program approved by the board of educational finance and offered to the students;

21-14A-8. State support; appropriation.

A. The CHE shall recommend an appropriation for each off-campus instruction program based upon its financial requirements in relation to its authorized program and its available funds from non-general fund sources.

B. The commission on higher education shall not recommend an appropriation greater than three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325) for each full-time-equivalent student for any off-campus instruction program that levies a tax at a rate less than two dollars (\$2.00), unless a lower amount is required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon a rate approved by the electors of at least two dollars (\$2.00) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code [Chapter 7, Articles 35 to 38, NMSA 1978], or any off-campus board that reduces a previously authorized tax levy, except as required by the operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978.

21-16-6. Technical Vocational Institutes. Board; powers and duties.

Associate degree programs shall be approved by the board of educational finance [commission on higher education].

21-16-7. Standards.

The state board of education shall, in conjunction with the board, prescribe the course of study for the technical and vocational institute. The board, in conjunction with the commission on higher education, shall define official standards of excellence in all matters relating to the administration, course of study and quality of instruction.

21-16-10. Appropriation; distribution.

A. The commission on higher education shall recommend an appropriation for each technical and vocational institute based upon its financial requirements in relation to its authorized program and its available funds from non-general fund sources.

- B. The commission on higher education shall by rule provide for the method for calculating the number of full-time-equivalent students in technical and vocational institutes.
- C. The commission on higher education shall not recommend an appropriation greater than three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325) for each full-time-equivalent student for any technical and vocational institute that levies a tax at a rate less than two dollars (\$2.00), unless a lower amount is required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon a rate approved by the electors of at least two dollars (\$2.00) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code [Chapter 7, Articles 35 to 38 NMSA 1978], or any technical and vocational institute that reduces a previously authorized tax levy, except as required by the operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978.
- D. The board may establish and grant gratis scholarships to students who are residents of New Mexico in an amount not to exceed the matriculation fee or tuition and fees, or both. Except as provided in Section 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978, the number of scholarships established and granted shall not exceed three percent of the preceding fall semester enrollment in the technical and vocational institute and shall not be established and granted for summer sessions. At least thirty-three and one-third percent of the gratis scholarships established and granted by the board each year shall be granted on the basis of financial need.

21-16-15. Dissolution of districts.

Technical and vocational institute districts may be dissolved in the following manner:

Upon receipt of the final report of the board, the state board of education, in conjunction with the commission on higher education, shall examine the report to determine whether any outstanding obligations exist and whether the terms of the approved plan have been accomplished.

21-19-7. Development training.

The economic development department shall establish a development training program that provides quick-response classroom and in-plant training to furnish qualified manpower resources for new or expanding industries and non-retail service sector businesses in New Mexico that have business or production procedures that require skills unique to those industries. There is created the "industrial training board composed of: ...the executive director of the commission on higher education.

21-21-7. Certification of the board of educational finance [commission on higher education].

Upon report by the fiscal agent of the accumulated total of guaranteed loans requiring funding under the Student Loan Act [21-21-1 to 21-21-13 NMSA 1978], the board of educational finance [commission on higher education] shall certify to the state treasurer the demonstrated need for disbursement from the student loan fund. The state treasurer shall then disburse the needed funds to the fiscal agent. If the need for disbursement exceeds the balance in the student loan fund, the board of finance shall determine the requirements of the fund for income from the sale of revenue bonds.

21-21-8. Issuance of revenue bonds.

Upon receipt of a certification from the board of educational finance [commission on higher education] that a need exists under the Student Loan Act [21-21-1 to 21-21-13 NMSA 1978], the state board of finance shall, by resolution, provide for the issuance of negotiable revenue bonds called the "New Mexico college student loan bonds" or the issuance of notes called the "New Mexico college student loan notes," or both.

21-21-14 &15. Student Loan Guarantee Act.

The purpose of the Student Loan Guarantee Act [21-21-14 to 21-21-24 NMSA 1978] is to establish a student loan guarantee program for post-high school students in accordance with such conditions as the board of educational finance may from time to time prescribe and consistent with Title IV, Part B, of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended; Title 45, Part 177, of the Code of Federal Regulations; and agreements with the United States commissioner of education pertaining thereto.

21-21-17. Student Loan Guarantee Act. Loan guarantees; powers and duties of board.

The board [commission on higher education] shall be the guaranter under the Student Loan Guarantee Act [21-21-14 to 21-21-24 NMSA 1978] and shall have the following powers in furtherance of the guarantee loan [guaranteed-loan] program:

A. to guarantee the loan of money, upon such terms and conditions as the board may prescribe, to residents of this state who are attending or have been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education in this state or elsewhere, for the purpose of meeting expenses of higher education; provided, that such guarantees shall not be payable from funds received or to be received from state taxation. Loans may be guaranteed in amounts not to exceed the yearly or aggregate totals authorized by the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended; B. to sue and be sued in the name of the board:

- C. to adopt rules and regulations governing the guarantee of loans and any other matters relating to the activities of the board in connection with the Student Loan Guarantee Act;
- D. to perform such other acts as may be necessary or appropriate in connection with the guarantee of loans;
- E. to require that any loan guaranteed under the Student Loan Guarantee Act shall be repaid in such manner and at such time as the board prescribes;
- F. to enter into such participation contracts, contracts for administrative services and guarantee agreements with the fiscal agent, with any other governmental agency of this state and any agency of the United States, including agreements for federal reinsurance of losses resulting

from the bankruptcy, death, default or total and permanent disability of student borrowers, as are necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and to carry out its functions under the Student Loan Guarantee Act:

- G. to receive and accept from any agency of the United States or from any individual, association or corporation, gifts, grants or donations of money for the purposes of the guaranteed-loan program;
- H. to participate in any federal governmental program for guaranteed loans or subsidies to students and to receive, hold and disburse funds made available by any agency of the United States for the purpose or purposes for which they are made available;
- I. to pay the federal government a portion of those funds obtained by the board from collection and recoupment of losses on defaulted loans in such amounts and in such manner as provided by any federal reinsurance agreement; and
- J. to contract with private business concerns in any attempt to make recovery on defaulted loans.

21-21-18. Fund created; method of payment.

Disbursements from the student loan guarantee fund shall be made upon vouchers signed by the executive director of the commission on higher education.

21-21-23. Certification of the board of educational finance.

Upon report by the fiscal agent of the accumulated total of guaranteed loans requiring funding under the Student Loan Guarantee Act [21-21-14 to 21-21-24 NMSA 1978], the board shall certify to the state treasurer the demonstrated need for disbursement from the severance tax permanent fund. The state treasurer shall then disburse the needed funds to the fiscal agent.

21-21-24. Reports.

The board [commission] shall make annual reports to the governor and to the legislature, prior to each regular session, of its activities, together with the amount of claims that the fiscal agent has submitted to the board in connection with loan guarantees, and a list of the participating institutions, together with the loan default rates of the respective participating institutions.

21-21-25. Collection of student loans; contracts authorized.

The board of educational finance [commission on higher education] may contract with one or more attorneys or law firms or with any other private business concern to assist the board [commission] in collecting any defaulted loan made pursuant to the Student Loan Act [21-21-1 to 21-21-13 NMSA 1978] or the Student Loan Guarantee Act [21-21-14 to 21-21-24 NMSA 1978]. No contract shall be entered into pursuant to this section unless proposals have been sought from two or more qualified firms.

21-21A-4. Educational Assistance Act. Nonprofit guarantee corporation; authorization; members; terms; meetings; bylaws. The corporation shall be governed by and all of its functions, powers and duties shall be exercised by a board of directors. The board shall consist of five members as follows: one member shall be the executive director of the commission on higher education.

21-21A-23. Administration of the student loan act and student loan guarantee act.

A. The fiscal agent designated by the board of educational finance pursuant to the provisions of the Student Loan Act [21-21-1 to 21-21-13 NMSA 1978] and Student Loan Guarantee Act [21-21-14 to 21-21-24 NMSA 1978] may enter into an agreement with the foundation for the performance of his duties and responsibilities under those acts.

B. Any existing reserve funds used for the purpose of guaranteeing loans under the Student Loan Guarantee Act shall be transferred to the corporation to be used for the same purpose.

21-21B-3. Work-Study Act. Fund; creation.

A "work-study fund" is created in the state treasury. The commission is instructed to create and maintain a state work-study program in accordance with the Work-Study Act. The commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to administer the Work-Study Act

21-21C-8. Student Choice Act. Promulgation and distribution of regulations.

The commission may make reasonable regulations, consistent with the purposes and policies of the Student Choice Act [21-21C-1 to 21-21C-9

NMSA 1978], to carry out the purposes of and to efficiently administer the Student Choice Act.

21-21D-5. Senior Citizens Reduced Tuition Act. Rules and regulations.

The commission may adopt such rules, regulations and procedures as necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of the Senior Citizens Reduced Tuition Act [21-21D-1 to 21-21D-5 NMSA 1978.

21-21E-1. Vietnam veterans' scholarship act. Fund created; administration; purpose.

Vietnam veterans' scholarship act. The commission may adopt rules, regulations and procedures as necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of the act.

21-21F-5. Fire Fighter and Peace Officer Survivors Scholarship Act. Rules and regulations.

The commission may adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the Fire Fighter and Peace Officer Survivors Scholarship Act [21-21F-1 to 21-21F-5 NMSA 1978].

21-21G-11. Graduate Scholarship Act. Rules and regulations.

The commission may adopt rules, regulations and procedures as necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of the Graduate Scholarship Act.

21-21H-9. New Mexico Scholars Act. Rules and regulations.

The commission may adopt such rules, regulations and procedures as necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of the New Mexico Scholars Act [21-21H-1 to 21-21H-9 NMSA 1978].

21-211-7. Minority Doctoral Assistance Loan for Service Program. Rules and regulations.

The commission may adopt such rules, regulations and procedures as necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of the Minority Doctoral Assistance Loan for Service Program.

21-21J-5. Legislative Endowment Scholarship Act. Scholarship authorized; administration; preference in scholarship awards. The commission shall administer the Legislative Endowment Scholarship Act [21-21J-1 to 21-21J-8 NMSA 1978] and shall adopt all rules,

regulations and policies necessary to administer that act.

21-21K-4. Education Trust Act. Board created; members; appointment; terms of office; powers and duties.

There is created the "education trust board". The board is administratively attached to the commission, and the commission shall provide administrative support for the board in carrying out its duties pursuant to the Education Trust Act [21-21K-1 to 21-21K-7 NMSA 1978].

21-22-4. Medical student loans; commission on higher education authorized; qualifications.

The commission is authorized to grant a loan to defray the expenses of the medical education of a student deemed qualified by the commission to receive the medical education, upon such terms and conditions as may be imposed by regulations of the commission.

21-22A-4. Osteopathic medical student loans; commission authorized; qualifications.

The commission is authorized to grant a loan to defray the expenses of the osteopathic medical education of a student deemed qualified by the commission to receive the osteopathic medical education, upon such terms and conditions as may be imposed by regulations of the commission.

21-22B-4. Nursing student loans; commission authorized; qualification.

The commission is authorized to grant a loan to defray the expenses of the nursing education of a student deemed qualified by the commission to receive the same, upon such terms and conditions as may be imposed by regulations of the commission.

21-22C-4. Allied health loans; qualifications.

The commission may grant a loan to a student it deems qualified to receive the loan upon terms and conditions it determines pursuant to the provisions of the Allied Health Student Loan for Service Act [this article] and regulations adopted pursuant to that act.

21-22D-4. Health Professional Loan Repayment. Commission powers and duties; participant eligibility; qualifications.

The commission may grant an award to repay loans obtained for health educational expenses of a health professional upon such terms and

conditions as may be imposed by regulations of the commission.

21-23-5. Post-Secondary Educational Institution Act. Duties of the commission.

- A. The commission is charged with oversight of all private post-secondary educational institutions operating within the state.
- B. The commission shall provide for the registration of all regionally accredited colleges and universities operating in the state pursuant to the Post-Secondary Educational Institution Act [this article].
- C. The commission shall provide for the licensure of all career schools and all non-accredited colleges and universities operating in the state pursuant to the Post-Secondary Educational Institution Act.

21-23-6. Registration of colleges and universities; submission of materials.

- A. Every college or university operating in New Mexico that is accredited or seeking accreditation by an accrediting agency approved by the commission shall register with the commission.
- B. A college or university registering with the commission pursuant to this section shall provide curriculum and enrollment information, financial information and all publication materials requested by the commission.

21-23-6.2. Licensure standards; requirements; fee authorization.

- A. Every career school operating in the state shall annually apply to the commission for licensure. The career school shall apply on forms approved by the commission, shall supply all information requested by the commission and shall pay an annual licensure fee set by the commission.
- B. The commission or its designee shall consider information submitted by the career school, information from independent accreditation bodies and information gathered during visits to the career school in determining eligibility for licensure.
- C. The commission shall promulgate and file, in accordance with the State Rules Act [Chapter 14, Article 4 NMSA 1978], rules and regs that:
- (1) require each career school to supply annually information regarding enrollment, program completion by students, employment and other educational placements of students and operating revenue budgets;
- (2) provide standards and methods for the evaluation and appraisal of career schools;
- (3) provide for a tuition refund policy;
- (4) require maintenance of adequate records by each career school and provide reasonable availability of records for inspection;
- (5) regulate the use of deceptive and misleading advertising and determine what information shall be furnished each student prior to enrollment:
- (6) assure that any career school licensed pursuant to the Post-Secondary Educational Institution Act [this article] has entered into a teach-out agreement with at least one other private or public institution operating in the state unless the commission determines that such an agreement is not feasible:
- (7) provide standards for the award of associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees;
- (8) encourage all career schools to seek appropriate external accreditation as a means of assuring quality instruction;
- (9) name an advisory committee of education providers and consumers, including owners and operators of career schools;
- (10) provide for the maintenance of records for career schools no longer in operation;
- (11) provide standards for the evaluation of the financial stability and ability to meet the commitments of career schools;
- (12) require each career school to adopt a procedure for the resolution of student complaints; and
- (13) establish other requirements necessary to carry out the provisions of the Post-Secondary Educational Institution Act.
- D. The commission may solicit information pertaining to the financial history and stability of a career school and its owners, including information pertaining to actions of bankruptcy filed within the immediately preceding five years. The commission may consider such information in determining eligibility for licensure.

21-23-7. Claims; limitations; appeals.

- A. Any person having a claim against a career school licensed by the commission or that career school's agents, instructors or other personnel shall first seek resolution of the claim with the career school; thereafter, a person may file a verified complaint with the commission, setting forth the basis of the claim and the name and address of the career school complained against and any other persons involved or having knowledge of the claim. All claims shall be limited to the amount of tuition actually paid or to any charge or fee received by the career school or its agents or employees.
- B. Upon the receipt of a verified complaint, the commission or its authorized employee shall attempt to resolve the claim outlined in the complaint. The commission or its authorized employee may convene a hearing and shall give written notice to the career school and to all persons involved of the hearing and its time, date and place.

21-23-12. Cooperation.

The commission shall cooperate with federal and other state agencies in administering the provisions of the Post-Secondary Educational Institution Act [this article]. The state corporation commission [public regulation commission] shall cooperate with the commission by identifying post-secondary educational institutions that apply for corporate charters. The state department of public education shall cooperate with the commission by providing the technical assistance necessary to develop minimum standards that post-secondary educational institutions shall meet and any other assistance that would be of aid in the administration of the Post-Secondary Educational Institution Act.

21-23-15. Post-secondary educational institutions; termination.

- A. No post-secondary educational institution shall terminate its operation within the state until:
- (1) the institution has made reasonable efforts with another public or private post-secondary educational institution that provides a comparable education to facilitate and provide for the transfer of the students, with a minimum loss of credit;
- (2) the post-secondary educational institution has made contractual arrangements for the perpetual care, maintenance and accessibility of all records, transcripts, reports and evaluations of all students receiving credit from the institution during the period of its existence; and
- (3) the post-secondary educational institution has met all regulations of the commission pertaining to the termination of operations by post-secondary educational institutions.
- B. Before any post-secondary educational institution terminates its services or sells, transfers or disposes of substantially all of its assets, it shall submit to the commission a summary of all actions taken pursuant to the requirements set forth in Subsection A of this section.

21-24-5. Registration; surety bond.

A. No agent representing a proprietary school shall sell any course or solicit students in person or by mail, telephone or similar means in New Mexico for a consideration unless the institution has registered with the commission. The commission shall charge an annual registration fee of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) for each proprietary school and an annual agent fee of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) for each agent operating in New Mexico.

B. Registration shall be made on forms provided by the commission and accompanied by the annual registration fee.

21-24-6. Out-of-State Proprietary School Act. Rules and regulations.

The commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the administration and enforcement of the Out-of-State Proprietary School Act.

21-25-1. Nonproprietary Out-Of-State Institutions. Board of educational finance [commission on higher education] approval.

The board of educational finance [commission on higher education] shall be responsible for the approval of courses offered in New Mexico by nonproprietary out-of-state institutions.

21-29-4. WICHE Loan for Service Act. Commission powers and duties; contracts.

The commission may adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the WICHE Loan for Service Act.

22-8-30.2. Adult basic education; distribution of money; objective formula; state board adoption of formula; commission on higher education approval.

The state board in consultation with representatives of adult basic education administrative sites shall, by regulation, establish an equitable

formula for the distribution of money in the adult basic education fund. In establishing an equitable formula, the state board shall consider the types of programs conducted, the cost of service delivery and the socio-economic profiles of the adult receiving services. The state board shall submit the proposed formula to the commission on higher education for approval prior to adoption.

Legislative Action 2001	
HB 47 (Chapter 287) Beginning Teachers Mentorship Program	
HB 68 (Chapter 288) Teacher Loan for Service Act	
HJM 10 Develop Collaborative Education Partnerships	
HJM 12 Develop School-To-Work Sustainability	
HJM 30 Work Force Development	
HJM 73 Study Higher Education Staffing Patterns	
SJM 61 Credit for Prior Learning	

Legislative Action 2002	
SB 14 (Chapter 31) Faculty Endowment Fund	

Strategic Goal #3: The Commission will effectively implement non-statutory activities that are necessary for agency success. (Incomplete List)

- A. Serve on the New Mexico School-to-Work Council as appointed by the Governor (Executive Order 97-13) for the purpose of statewide oversight and policy development. Staff serves on the STW Operations Team as a resource for program development and implementation.
- B. Continually improve the official processes of the Commission through an ongoing process of policy and regulatory review and revision, and recommending desired statutory revisions.
 - 1) Revise 5 NMAC 2.2, New Campus Regulation, to reflect provisions of the Learning Center Act.
 - 2) Revise 5 NMAC 3.12, Instructional Funding Regulation, to extend/modify the sunset date of geographic service areas.

- 3) Revise/combine policies for Delivery of Instruction in the Coming Decade, Extended Learning Initiative, and Public Investment in Fixed Assets.
- 4) Revise 5 NMAC 5.2, Approval of Graduate Programs, to clarify and update certain provisions.
- C. Provide information in response to public inquiries.
- D. Moderate complaints from members of the public concerning post-secondary education in New Mexico.
- E. Analyze proposed legislation, attend and respond to legislative hearings and requests. Represent the Commission at the New Mexico Legislature.
- F. Provide public information that helps students and prospective students be informed customers, and that is responsive to taxpayer concerns. Maintain public website access.
- G. Facilitate an annual higher education meeting on campus-based student retention efforts.
- H. Establish and maintain a state-of-the-art unit-record database with adequate equipment and support. Incorporate standard data elements to support the Commission's planning, financing, and accountability responsibilities to the state.
- I. Conduct a regular cycle of site visits to licensed private proprietary institutions.
- J. Provide student transcripts/records for individuals whose student records have been submitted to the Commission for retention.
- K. Collaborate with the public schools to promote higher education access through accelerated learning options, including concurrent enrollment and advanced placement courses.
- L. Regulatory review

Strategic Goal #4: Develop and implement the public agenda for higher education through partnerships with institutions, business, and others constituents. (Incomplete List)

- A. Create a task force of institutional representatives to develop a survey and policy direction for information technology and extended learning.
- B. Communicate a shared vision and plan for growth of higher education statewide.
- C. Encourage collaborative and coordinated governance.
- D. Promote institutional cooperation in distributed program delivery.
- E. Encourage diversity of focused institutional missions.
- F. Promote coordination with the business community.
- G. Continue to improve program articulation among post-secondary institutions of all types.
- H. Continue an ongoing partnership with the State Board of Education.
- I. Promote collaboration with K-12, government agencies, libraries, higher education institutions, and the public television stations.
- J. Attain a higher education liaison within the New Mexico Economic Development Department.
- K. Encourage and recognize institutions' progress toward campus student retention goals.

Partnerships. The following is a listing of those partnerships/task forces/councils who Commission staff actively involves in and/or informs of Commission activities. (Incomplete List)

- Council of University and Association of Community College Presidents
- CHE Advisory Council for Proprietary Education
- WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee
- New Mexico Association of Private Schools
- NM Association of Community Colleges Performance Indicator Personnel
- NM Council of University Presidents' Accountability Work Group
- New Mexico Placement Council
- CHE Health Professional Advisory Committee
- NM Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
- Teacher Education Accountability Council
- College of Education Deans Council
- Legislative Council workgroups
- Legislative Education Study Committee workgroups
- Education Initiatives and Accountability Taskforce
- Education Partners Council
- Articulation and Transfer Task Force
- CHE Research Advisory Council
- Academic Council on Higher Education

- Council of Chief Instructional Officers
- Information Technology Commission
- Electronic Distance Education Network
- NM Council for Higher Education Computing and Communications Services
- NM Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers
- NM Association for Institutional Research
- Statewide Transition Coordinating Council (Special Needs Students Task Force)

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